

# THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S

## NATIONAL ALTERNATIVE FUELS HOTLINE

### *C.H.A.M.P.*

### *CERTIFICATION OF HIGHER LEARNING IN ALTERNATIVE FUELS MOTOR PROGRAM*

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT THE HOTLINE  
800-423-1DOE • 703-528-3500  
FAX: 703-528-1953  
E-MAIL: [hotline@afdc.doe.gov](mailto:hotline@afdc.doe.gov)

**PURPOSE:** The national shortage of qualified technicians to service alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) has spurred the need for high-quality technician training programs with uniform national standards.

**GOAL:** To ensure adequate numbers of high-quality technicians are properly trained in the conversion and maintenance of AFVs and refueling systems.

**IMPLEMENTATION:** Section 411 of the Energy Policy Act directs the Department of Energy (DOE) to establish a national certification program to certify alternative fuel training programs for automotive technicians. Referred to as CHAMP, the certification program began in September 1995 through a recently signed 5-year cost-shared cooperative agreement with the National Automotive Technician Education Foundation (NATEF). Working with DOE and the alternative fuels industry, NATEF will establish national uniform standards and manage the certification. Based on the recommendations of NATEF, the nationally recognized, independent, private-sector automotive certifying organization, the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE), will confer the certifications under this program. NATEF will also provide program information to training providers through written materials and regional workshops. The certification program is voluntary.

**PROGRAMS:** A critical shortage now exists of well-trained, highly skilled automotive technicians to meet current demand for the service and maintenance of thousands of AFVs and refueling systems (such as natural gas compressor stations). It is so serious that Federal fleet managers have complained of waiting three or more weeks for an AFV to be repaired while the servicing dealership waits for a technician to be flown in from Detroit. This 'down' time prevents the Federal agency from carrying out its mission and costs the government money. DOE has also acknowledged the need for technician training standards for refueling systems, primarily compressor-station technology, and therefore, plans to develop uniform training standards and a certification process for that field of technology. This is an important safety and fuel-availability consideration, since high-pressure refueling stations will be used by the general motoring public in large numbers in the near future. This program will prepare workers for about a half million jobs that will be created by the aggressive national push toward widespread acceptance and use of AFVs.

To ensure high-quality training programs, DOE is working closely with private sector organizations develop this new certification process and uniform training standards. This will maximize the best of existing related programs and processes used by automobile manufacturers, fuel providers, equipment manufacturers, academic institutions and certification bodies, commercial training experts, industry associations and State and local governments.

**FUNDING:** Federal funding for FY 1995 was \$500,000; NATEF's cost share was \$88,000. The first year's efforts addressed the completion of the development and implementation of a certification program for light- and medium-duty vehicles powered by

either compressed natural gas (CNG) or liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and the initiation of the development of a certification process for heavy-duty CNG, LPG and liquefied natural gas (LNG) vehicles, plus refueling system technology. Work in years two through five is a continuation of previous work and the initiation and completion of work with heavy and light-duty electric and hybrid electric vehicle technician training programs, fuel-cell powered vehicle technician training programs, and future fuel vehicle technology technician training programs, such as hydrogen and biodiesel. Subject to availability of future appropriations, a total projected amount of \$2,320,000 in federal funds will be required for the entire five-year period. NATEF has pledged to contribute an amount of a minimum of \$476,000 in non-Federal funds to this project during the five years period.

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** The DOE CHAMP Scholarship, funded in the amount of \$200,000 (FY 1995), has produced 127 alternative fuel scholarships the first year. During a five year DOE cooperative agreement, the American Automobile Association will administer both the scholarship and any private-sector contributions to the CHAMP scholarship. Subsequent-year Federal funding for the CHAMP scholarship is subject to the availability of future appropriations.

**APPLICATION:** For information on how to apply for certification of alternative fuel technician training programs, contact NATEF at 703-713-0100.

**OTHER INFORMATION:** For general information on alternative fuels, contact the National Alternative Fuels Hotline at 800-423-1363 (800-423-1DOE).

The following are names and addresses of the "Partners" involved in CHAMP:

<p><b>ORGANIZATIONS</b></p> <p><b>American Automobile Association (AAA)</b> 1000 AAA Drive Heathrow, FL 32746 <b>Contact:</b> Mike Morressy Public Relations <b>Phone:</b> 407-444-8014 <b>Fax:</b> 407-444-8030</p> <p><b>American Gas Association (AGA)</b> (See page 5 under NGV) 1515 Wilson Boulevard Arlington, VA 22209</p>	<p><b>Contact:</b> Greg Zilberfarb, Director, Market Development <b>Phone:</b> 703-841-8574 <b>Fax:</b> 703-841-8689</p> <p><b>American Society of Advanced Fuels Technology (ASAFT)</b> PO Box 9600 Alpine, TX 79831 <b>Contact:</b> Robert Mahle, President <b>Phone:</b> 800-418-3224 <b>Fax:</b> 915-837-7101</p> <p>ASAFT is a (501-C3) Non-Profit organization dedicated to education, technician training and research in clean</p>
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burning alternative fuels and vehicle technology as methods for reducing dependence on foreign crude oil sources and air pollution caused by emissions from transportation autos, trucks, buses, and other heavy duty vehicles

#### **Automotive Service Association (ASA)**

1901 Airport Freeway  
Bedford, TX 76021-5732

**Contact:** Roberto Michel, Editor

**Phone:** 817-267-1376

**Fax:** 817-685-0225

The Automotive Service Association advances the professionalism and excellence in the automotive repair industry through education, representation and member services. ASA has more than 12,000 members in the areas of mechanical and collision repair.

#### **National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE)**

13505 Dulles Technology Drive, Suite 2  
Herdon, VA 20171-3413

**Contact:** Dave Cappert  
Director of Technician  
Relations

**Phone:** 703-713-3800

**Fax:** 703-793-6544

The National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) was founded in 1972 as a non-profit, independent entity dedicated to improving the quality of automotive service and repair through the voluntary testing and certification of automotive technicians. Tests are administered twice a year in the following technical areas:

Auto/Light Truck, Medium/Heavy Truck, Alternative Fuels, Advanced Series, Collision Repair, Engine Machinist, School Bus, and Parts Specialist.

#### **ATA - Foundation/Trucking Research Institute**

2200 Mill Road  
Alexandria, VA 22314

**Contact:** Bill Peerenboom, Editor

**Phone:** 703-838-1863

**Fax:** 703-838-0291

The ATA Foundation is the research and educational arm of the American Trucking Association, which is the national trade association of the commercial trucking industry. The ATA Foundation and its research affiliate, Trucking Research Institute (TRI) conduct research into areas affecting the trucking industry in the fields of technology, human factors and public policy.

#### **TRUCKING RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

The Trucking Research Institute (TRI) is a charitable trust research affiliate of the American Trucking Associations Foundation (ATA Foundation). TRI conducts studies in technology, human factors and public policy issues relating to the commercial trucking industry.

#### **Automotive Training Managers Council (ATMC)**

892 Cambridge Drive  
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

**Contact:** Larry Yeager  
Director

**Phone:** 847-228-0484

**Fax:** 847-228-5635

**Inter Industry Conference on Auto Collision Repair (I-CAR)**

3701 Algonquin Road, Suite 400  
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008

**Contact:** Chris Snakirik  
Marketing Supervisor

**Phone:** 847-590-1191

**Fax:** 847-590-1215

I-CAR is an international non-profit organization that provides training for the collision repair, insurance and related industries. Courses are offered in more than 300 locations in the United States, Canada and New Zealand. Subject areas include collision repair, aluminum and plastic repair, customer service, detailing and quality control, electronics, workplace hazardous materials, office/claims administration and refinishing, among others.

**National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF)**

13505 Dulles Technology Drive, Suite 2  
Herdon, VA 22071

**Contact:** Don Dew  
Director, Special Projects

**Phone:** 703-713-0100

**Fax:** 703-713-0727

The National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF), a 501(C) (3) non-profit organization, is a separate foundation within ASE. NATEF's primary mission is to improve the quality of automotive technician training programs through voluntary program certification. Areas currently available for program certification

include: Light/Medium-Duty CNG/LPG, Automobile, Medium/Heavy-Duty Truck, and Collision Repair and Refinish.

**Natural Gas Vehicle Coalition (NGVC)**

1515 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1030  
Arlington, VA 22209

**Contact:** Greg Zilberfarb, Director,  
Market Development

**Phone:** 703-527-3022

**Fax:** 703-527-3025

The Natural Gas Vehicle Coalition contains more than 200 organizations dedicated to the growth of the natural gas vehicle (NGV) market. Founded in 1988, the NGVC, which represents the natural gas industry, equipment suppliers, environmental groups, and government agencies, serves as the leading national voice for the NGV industry.

**National Propane Gas Association (NPGA)**

1600 Eisenhower Lane, Suite 160  
Leisle, IL 605320

**Contact:** Sue Spear, Director,  
Education and Safety

**Phone:** 630-515-0600

**Fax:** 630-515-8474

The National Propane Gas Association is the national trade association for the U.S. propane gas industry and is actively involved with Clean Cities initiatives nationwide. For more information on propane as an alternative vehicle fuel or to locate the supplier nearest you, contact the NPGA at **1-800-4LPGAS2**;

e-mail: [npga@propanegas.com](mailto:npga@propanegas.com);  
or on the Internet at  
<http://www.propanegas.com>.

### **Propane Vehicle Council**

1101 17th Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20036

**Contact:** Joe Colaneri  
Executive Director  
**Phone:** 202-530-0479  
**Fax:** 202-466-7205

The Propane Vehicle Council was founded in 1994 to advance propane as a alternative transportation fuel. Its membership includes propane marketers, producers, transporters and vehicle and equipment manufacturers. The Council's priorities include vehicle and infrastructure development, federal tax equity and market development.

### **Railroad Commission of Texas (TRR)**

1701 North Congress  
Austin, TX 78701

**Contact:** Steve Jaeger  
Research Director of  
Alternative Fuels  
**Phone:** 512-463-9202  
**Fax:** 512-475-2532

The Railroad Commission of Texas is a state organization which promotes the use of alternative fuels. TRR provides education, research, and marketing of alternative fuels, specifically propane. TRR also provides technical training on LPG, LNG, and CNG fuels.

## **EDUCATION**

### **Central Community College**

4500 63rd Street  
PO Box 1027  
Columbus, NE 68601

**Contact:** Doug Pauley, Director,  
Alternative Fuels  
**Phone:** 402-562-1280  
**Fax:** 402-562-1201

Central Community College is a Regional Training Center for alternative fueled vehicles and can provide on-site training to fleet managers, shop foremen, and automotive technicians. Workshops can be customized to meet the needs of individual fleets and can range in length from one hour to one week.

### **Francis Tuttle Vocational and Technical Center**

12777 North Rockwell  
Oklahoma City, OK 73142

**Contact:** Bill Allen  
Program Director  
**Phone:** 405-720-4274  
**Fax:** 405-282-8483

### **Northwestern College**

Admissions Department  
1441 North Cable Road  
Lima, OH 45805

**Contact:** Ron Roeder, Director  
**Phone:** 419-227-3141  
**Fax:** 419-229-6926

Northwestern College is non-profit educational institution, authorized by the Ohio Board of Regents to grant associate degrees in applied science and applied business. The Technological

Department offers associated degrees and diplomas in the following categories:

- Alternative Fuels
- Automotive
- Diesel Truck

Northwestern is also a Regional Training Center for the National Alternative Fuels Training Program and offers in-service training course on natural gas and propane systems.

**West Virginia University**

PO Box 6064

Morgantown, WV 26505

**Contact:** Larry McLaughlin  
Program Director

**Phone:** 304-293-2867 ext 423

**Fax:** 304-293-3749

**Alternative Fuel Vehicle Training Program, National Research Center for Coal and Energy, WVU.**

The alternative fuel vehicle program works in cooperation with the National Center for Alternative Fuels at WVU, whose faculty in the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department have developed the only transportable emissions laboratory in the United States to test alternative fuel emissions. The Federal Government has commissioned the university to build a second emission laboratory.